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2 What is claimed is:

3  
4 1. A method for monitoring objects within an information technological  
5 (IT) network having monitored nodes in which monitoring-relevant events occur,  
6 comprising:

7 generating event-related messages comprising a message key and a  
8 message relation key;

9 comparing the message relation key with the message key of another  
10 message;

11 processing the other message depending on the result of the comparison.  
12

13 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the message key has attributes which  
14 characterise certain characteristics of the related event which are relevant for  
15 monitoring purposes.  
16

17 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the message relation key has  
18 attributes, at least one of the attributes being or comprising a wildcard.  
19

20 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of comparing the message  
21 relation key and the other message key comprises checking whether the keys  
22 match with each other.  
23

24 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of processing comprises  
25 discarding the other message if its message key is found to match with the  
26 message relation key.  
27

28 6. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one monitoring agent is  
29 associated with a monitored node, and wherein the step of generating event-

1 related messages comprising the message key and the message relation key is  
2 carried out by the agent.

3  
4 7. The method of claim 6, wherein a monitoring server receives the  
5 messages and carries out the processing step.

6  
7 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the message key and the message  
8 relation key are generated according to key patterns which can be defined on the  
9 basis of a set of pattern definition rules, and wherein both the message key  
10 pattern and the message relation key pattern are defined on the basis of the same  
11 set of pattern definition rules.

12  
13 9. The method of claim 8, wherein the method is carried out by a  
14 computer program, and the message key pattern and the message relation key  
15 pattern can be defined by a user via a user interface at a common place of the  
16 computer program.

17  
18 10. A system for monitoring objects within an information technological  
19 (IT) network having monitored nodes in which monitoring-relevant events occur  
20 and a message processor,

21 wherein agents are associated with the monitored nodes and generate  
22 event-related messages comprising a message key and a message relation key;  
23 and

24 wherein the message processor compares the message relation key with the  
25 message key of another message and processes the other message depending on  
26 the result of the comparison.

27  
28 11. The system of claim 10, wherein the agents generate messages with  
29 message keys having attributes which characterise certain characteristics of the

1 related event which are relevant for monitoring purposes.

2  
3 12. The system of claim 10, wherein the agents generate messages with  
4 the message relation key having attributes, at least one of the attributes being or  
5 comprising a wildcard.

6  
7 13. The system of claim 10, wherein the monitoring server compares the  
8 message relation key and the other message key by checking whether the keys  
9 match with each other.

10  
11 14. The system of claim 10, wherein the monitoring server processes the  
12 other message by discarding it if it has found the other message's message key  
13 to match with the message relation key.

14  
15 15. The system of claim 10, wherein the agent generates the message key  
16 and the message relation key according to key patterns which are both defined  
17 on the basis of the same set of pattern definition rules.

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19 16. The system of claim 15, wherein the system comprises a monitoring  
20 computer program having a user interface, and the message key pattern and the  
21 message relation key pattern can be defined by a user via the user interface at a  
22 common place of the computer program.

23  
24 17. A computer program product including program code for execution on a  
25 network having monitored nodes in which monitoring-relevant events occur,  
26 comprising:

27 said program code for generating event-related messages comprising a  
28 message key and a message relation key;

29 comparing the message relation key with the message key of another

1 message;

2 processing the other message depending on the result of the comparison.

3  
4 18. The computer program product of claim 17, wherein the message key  
5 has attributes which characterise certain characteristics of the related event  
6 which are relevant for monitoring purposes.

7  
8 19. The computer program product of claim 17, wherein the message  
9 relation key has attributes, at least one of the attributes being or comprising a  
10 wildcard.

11  
12 20. The computer program product of claim 17, wherein the step of  
13 comparing the message relation key and the other message key comprises  
14 checking whether the keys match with each other.

15  
16 21. The computer program product of claim 17, wherein the step of  
17 processing comprises discarding the other message if its message key is found to  
18 match with the message relation key.

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20 22. The computer program product of claim 17, wherein at least one  
21 monitoring agent is associated with a monitored node, and wherein the step of  
22 generating event-related messages comprising the message key and the message  
23 relation key is carried out by the agent.

24  
25 23. The computer program product of claim 22, wherein a monitoring  
26 server receives the messages and carries out the processing step.

27  
28 24. A computer program product including program code for execution on a  
29 network having monitored nodes in which monitoring-relevant events occur, said

1 program code generates event-related messages comprising a message key and a  
2 message relation key for a comparison of the message relation key with the  
3 message key of another message,

4 wherein the message key and the message relation key are generated  
5 according to key patterns which can be defined on the basis of a set of pattern  
6 definition rules, and wherein both the message key pattern and the message  
7 relation key pattern are defined on the basis of the same set of pattern definition  
8 rules.

9  
10 25. The computer program product of claim 24, wherein the message key  
11 pattern and the message relation key pattern can be defined by a user via a user  
12 interface at a common place of the computer program.